

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051569

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 3251 SENT SECSTATE DATED MAR 5.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3251

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PRESS ALLEGATIONS ABOUT EMBASSY CONTACTS
WITH THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI)

1. THE SUBJECT OF EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH THE PCI HAS SURFACED AGAIN IN THE ITALIAN MEDIA, THIS TIME IN THE LATEST EDITION OF THE WEEKLY "IL MONDO" (MARCH 13). WRITTEN BY RICCARDO SARTI AND ENTITLED "SECRET ENCOUNTERS PCI-USA---AN AMERICAN AT THE BOTTEGHE OSCURE (PCI HEADQUARTERS)", THE ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN WEEKLY MEETINGS BETWEEN AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS STATIONED AT THE EMBASSY AND THE CHIEF OF THE PCI'S FOREIGN SECTION (SERGIO SEGRE) FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT CONTACTS WERE INITIATED BY A "CERTAIN ROBERT BOIES" AND HAVE BEEN CONTINUED BY MARTIN WENICK, "AN AMERICAN WHO HAS COME DIRECTLY FROM MOSCOW."

2. THE ARTICLE THEN PROCEEDS TO RAMBLE ON ABOUT THE
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PRESENT AMERICAN INTEREST (OR THE LACK THEREOF) IN

ITALY AND THE SCOPE OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY. IT ALLEGES THAT A NEW CIA EMISSARY HAS RECENTLY ARRIVED IN ROME AND THAT HE IS NOW WORKING UNDER BUSINESS RATHER THAN EMBASSY COVER. ANOTHER CONTENTION OF THE ARTICLE IS THAT THE CENTRAL FILES OF THE CIA CONSTITUTE A VERITABLE WHO'S WHO OF ITALY.

3. THE MILAN DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA", SOME OF WHOSE STAFFERS HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN OVER EDITORIAL CONTROL OF "IL MONDO," SUMMARIZES THE ARTICLE ON MARCH 5 WITH CERTAIN EMBELLISHMENTS. CORRIERE WRITES INTER ALIA THAT NO ONE ATTEMPTS TO HIDE THE FACT THAT WENICK IS AN AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENT.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY PRESS INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE "IL MONDO" ARTICLE. IF ASKED, WE PLAN TO STATE THAT EMBASSY OFFICERS IN THE COURSE OF PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES HAVE NUMEROUS CONTACTS IN ITALIAN POLITICAL CIRCLES. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT EMBASSY POLICY TO COMMENT EITHER ON THE SPECIFICS OF OUR CONTACTS OR THE PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS.

5. EMBASSY WILL POUCH TRANSLATION OF "IL MONDO" ARTICLE. VOLPE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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